

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

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McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

September 25, 2009

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Airmen honor former prisoners of war

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

More than 60 former prisoners of war packed the McChord Clubs and Community Center ballroom Sept. 17 for the annual luncheon held in their honor.

Each veteran was paired with an Airman for the duration of the event.

"There were a lot of good conversations going on throughout the lunch," said Senior Airman Keith Dengel, 62nd Communications Squadron, and member of the event committee.

Self-described history buff Tech. Sgt. Eric Uhl, 62nd Medical Squadron, forged a friendship with a 90-year-old World War II veteran he had the privilege of joining for the afternoon.

"The stories he told were amazing," said Sergeant Uhl of the man who was captured in France and then moved to Germany as a POW. "Against the camp's rules, he still managed to keep a diary."

The veteran later turned the diary entries into a book, which he sent to Sergeant Uhl a week later with a handwritten thank you note.

"For these guys, (the lunch) is their event ... it's about them," Sergeant Uhl said. "You get to know them and they get to share so much interesting history."



Staff Sgt. Monica Garcia, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, left, and Trooper William Jones, former Buffalo Soldier, share a lighthearted moment prior to the 62nd Airlift Wing's annual POW/MIA recognition day luncheon Sept 17.

News continues after final Airlifter edition

By
62nd Airlift Wing
Public Affairs

Wing news continues online, and in two other publications following today's final edition of *The Northwest Airlifter* as an authorized publication of the 62nd Airlift Wing.

The latest wing news, feature stories and photographs remain available on the 62nd AW public Web site: www.mcchord.af.mil (via government computers at www.mcchord.af.mil/). The same Web site also hosts the wing's new bi-monthly unit newsletter, premiering online Oct. 16.

The Northwest Guardian, currently serving Fort Lewis, begins expanded distribution on McChord early next month to include more coverage of Air Force and installation activities. As the authorized

joint base newspaper, installation-wide distribution will be complete with delivery to all base housing areas in February, following Joint Base Lewis-McChord Initial Operating Capability.

"Our mission to tell the story of our Airmen hasn't changed, and their stories will still be told online and in a military newspaper," said Master Sgt. Dean Miller, 62nd Airlift Wing chief of public affairs. "We encourage all members of the McChord community to continue sharing news tips and information with us so we can coordinate coverage and support of their events."

Members of the McChord community may pass news tips and information to public affairs at 982-5637.

While *The Northwest Airlifter* ceases as an official Air Force publication, readers may see a similar product distributed as a private business venture.

Historic birthday

Team McChord welcomes Gen. Norton Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Mrs. Suzie Schwartz, to the 2009 McChord Air Force Ball. General Schwartz is the keynote speaker at the event celebrating 62 years of air power excellence, past, present and future at McChord. The celebration is Saturday, 6 p.m. in Hangars 3 and 4.

2009 AIR FORCE BALL & TEAM MCCHORD

AIR FORCE BALL Celebrate
62 YEARS OF AIR POWER EXCELLENCE
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
AT MCCHORD

26 SEPTEMBER 2009

GUEST SPEAKER
GENERAL NORTON SCHWARTZ
AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF

LOCATION	TIME
Hangars 3&4	1800-2300

TICKETS

E-1 - E-6 GS-5 & Below \$20.00	E-7 - O-3 GS-6 - GS-11 \$25.00	O-4 & Above GS-12 & Above/Retiree Civic Leaders \$35.00
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Weekend Weather

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



Hi: 72
Low: 46



Hi: 71
Low: 45



Hi: 73
Low: 45

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday

Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Countdown to success

Operational
Readiness Inspection..... **29** days

Joint Base IOC..... **127** days

Don't miss it ...

Air Force Ball is Saturday

Airman's social and dinner, 6 p.m.
Barnes Gate open until 11:30 p.m.

Happy 62nd birthday, Air Force!

By
Gen. Norton Schwartz
Air Force Chief of Staff
Michael Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force and their families: Sixty-two years ago, on Sept. 18, 1947, your Air Force was established as an independent service. Over the last six decades our legacy has been one of adaption, innovation and technological change on a

constant quest to reach beyond our limits. On this day, it is appropriate to not only reflect upon this heritage, but to also look ahead. While the employment of air-power has changed throughout history, our charge remains to Fly, Fight and Win in air, space and cyberspace. Regardless of the domain, the indomitable spirit of the American Airman remains unchanged. The spark of innovation which drove aviation pioneers to master powered flight and break the sound barrier can be seen in our global

air, space and cyber capabilities that provide unprecedented levels of support to combatant commanders around the world. The heart and soul of our Air Force is not found in the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ; it is in our Airmen and their families. The future of our Air Force rests in their hands, and for us to succeed we must ensure the well-being of our Total Force Airmen, civilians and their families. As we celebrate our birthday this year, let us remember the commit-

ment and sacrifice of the more than 40,000 Airmen deployed around the globe and their families who support them. We are proud of all the Air Force has accomplished, and prouder still of today's Airmen who have answered their Nation's call. You embody Integrity, Service, and Excellence, and we are proud to serve alongside you. You are a living tribute to our Airmen of battles past, and an inspiration for Airmen yet to come. Happy 62nd birthday!

Another flu shot? Why it is important

By
Lt. Col. (Dr.) Brad Winterton
1st Air Force Epidemiologist

Two hundred years ago, the average life expectancy was about 40 years. Today, it is nearly 80 years. That doubling of life expectancy can be attributed almost entirely to just two things: improved sanitation and immunizations. All other medical advances combined don't even begin to come close to the effects of those two. The success of vaccines has become their biggest stumbling block. Only the very oldest Americans have seen family members die of diphtheria, measles, mumps, smallpox, tetanus or whooping cough. I remember my father telling me that his greatest childhood fear was contracting polio and spending the rest of his life in an iron lung; however, we no longer see children or adults crippled or dead from

polio in our country. Thanks to vaccines, we are insulated from most of the illness and death that were part of everyday life for almost the entire history of mankind (and still are in many parts of the world). Those who decry vaccines as dangerous or even as an evil conspiracy are able to do so precisely because of the success of vaccines; without vaccines there is a very high probability many of those individuals would not have lived past age 10 and, therefore, would not have had the opportunity to complain about vaccines. Is immunization 100 percent effective? No. A few people can receive multiple doses of a vaccine and never develop immunity to that disease. Are vaccines 100 percent safe? No. No medical procedure is 100 percent safe. A few people have negative reactions to vaccines that cause serious illness or even death. However, given the choice of having a quarter to half of all children die before reaching adolescence (as still happens today in countries where sanitation is

poor and vaccines are not available) versus having one child in a million suffer a serious negative effect of a vaccine, the choice is pretty obvious. It is a genuine tragedy for that one; it is literally lifesaving for the other hundreds of thousands. Immunization is largely an individual choice. Those who do not wish to be immunized can refuse based on religious or philosophical objections. However, such individuals are still protected by the very vaccines they refuse by being surrounded with people who are immunized; it's called "population immunity." Once a certain percentage of the population is immune, diseases no longer can circulate because they can't find enough susceptible individuals to propagate effectively. Vaccine-preventable illnesses have caused unimaginable suffering and death; now most of them seem like ancient history. I will be in line, with my family in tow, to receive our shots as they become available, including the H1N1 vaccine.

The Sharp Airman ...

knows that Air Force Instruction 36-2903 states that when in semi-formal or mess dress uniforms, saluting is not required.

The AFI only spells out the minimum requirement - with that said, the

Sharp Airman would recognize the significance of the event and the level of Air Force leadership (Headquarters U.S. Air Force, 18th AF, etc.) in attendance, and would render a proper military salute when outdoors. This would demonstrate to our guests that the men and women of Team McChord consistently look to go above and beyond in all we do verses merely doing what is required of them. (by Chief Master Sgt. Cary Hatzinger)

PROFESSIONALS

of the week

62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Dustie Prichard

Duty Title:
Integrated avionics systems journeyman

Duty section:
Blue Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Hometown:
Harrison, Ark.



Why she's super:

Sergeant Prichard has the enormous task of monitoring and updating training, appointments, EPRs and decorations for 250 combined active duty, civilian and Reserve personnel. Thanks to her tenacious oversight, the Blue Aircraft Maintenance Unit has maintained a 100 percent on-time EPR and decoration record. As a member of the wing's 5/6 Club, Sergeant Prichard is spearheading an Enlisted Appreciation Day event, thanking Airman for their sacrifices over the past year. She is also her unit's fitness program manager, maintaining zero overdue tests since assuming ownership of the program.

Airman 1st Class Eirik Cohn

Duty Title:
Aerospace propulsion journeyman

Duty section:
Silver Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Hometown:
Cape May, N.J.



Why he's tops:

Airman Cohn displays outstanding integrity, drive and initiative on a daily basis. While deployed on a Joint Force Exercise at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., he led replacement of an engine starter during an aircraft launch. The task was completed in only 30 minutes — half of the standard time — and helped ensure a 100 percent mission departure rate. Airman Cohn has also taken on tasks above and beyond expectations by volunteering as the squadron's Knuckle Buster awards program point of contact and also authoring AMXS's change of command script, both of which were lauded as huge successes due to his leadership and dedication.

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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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Record crowd turns out for Air Force Marathon

By
Ted Theopolos
88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — Nearly 10,000 runners lined up at the starting line for the 2009 Air Force Marathon Sept. 19 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The events of today included participants running in the full marathon as well as a wheeled division, a half-marathon and a 10K run.

The 13th annual running event with an almost 35 percent increase over last year started with remarks by Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Owen, commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center, and included a first-ever visit by an Air Force chief of staff, when Gen. Norton Schwartz arrived to

present awards to the winners.

“It’s an honor to assist and kick off the 2009 Air Force Marathon,” General Owen said. “There are runners from 50 states and eight foreign countries in today’s race. There are Airmen who have once deployed and are running today in this year’s marathon. I’d like to welcome our guests from the USAF Marathon Team, 2nd Lt. Caroline White, and the Royal Air Force Scampton Running Team from Britain. I also want to thank the more than 2,000 volunteers.”

Lieutenant White ran in the half marathon today to prepare for the 2012 Olympics Trials that will be in Minnesota in October.

The three-day event started with a Sports and Fitness Expo at the Ervin J. Nutter Center located on the campus of Wright State University just down the road from the base. The

expo ran for two days including a 5K race with more than 1,200 runners to scurry around the college campus on the second day. That evening the marathon runners indulged in a gourmet pasta dinner at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

The marathon course went through historical places on the base and through downtown Fairborn, Ohio, where onlookers cheered the race participants.

“It was wonderful weather and a great course,” said Dave Johnston the winner of the Air Force Marathon with an unofficial time of 2:30:42. “I worked very hard training for this.”

“I come every year,” said Jean Belman from Hazel Park, Mich., has participated in every Air Force Marathon and who served 23 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. “I have to. It improves every year and grows

too.”

This was my first time for this race,” said Michael Postell from Atlanta, the winner of the marathon wheel division who races in about 25 marathons a year. “I enjoyed the course. It takes a lot of training to prepare for this event.”

Seventy-six-year-old Frank Robinson from Louisville, Ky., ran the 10K.

“I’ve been a runner for about 40 years,” Mr. Robinson said. “I was here for the second race and now this one. I wasn’t going to race, but was talked into it and signed up yesterday. I’m coming back next year for sure.”

A special runner for the second year was Army Capt. Ivan Castro, an Army special forces soldier who was blinded during a mortar attack in Iraq in 2006. Last year the captain ran the full marathon but opted to run the half marathon this year.



Photo by Abner Guzman

Fit to fight

Col. Kevin Kilb, 62nd Airlift Wing commander, led the 62nd AW on a 2.6 mile wing run Tuesday on the McChord airfield.



Inspectors assess readiness of aerial port

By
Senior Airman Patrick Cabellon
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Flexing their wartime readiness muscles as a team, more than 40 Reservists from the 86th Aerial Port Squadron participated in a readiness assessment exercise in Norfolk, Va., Aug. 22 to Sept. 4.

When a unit is required to be part of an operational readiness inspection, they can participate in the Readiness Assessment Team inspection program, or RAT, where an Inspector General team from Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., goes out to the unit’s deployment site and observes and evaluates the unit on certain tasks. The unit is rated by the inspector and if a passing score is received, the unit is checked off on that particular job task or specialty for the ORI. Any tasks not performed still have to be completed at the ORI.

“The efforts the team put forward (at Norfolk) were exceptional,” said Capt. Shannon Voytilla, 86th APS, RAT team chief. “They were a very confident and capable group.”

“They hit us with different scenarios,” said Master Sgt. Derek Abdella, 86th APS. “We would be doing our job when suddenly, we would find ourselves under a table in (Mission-Oriented Protective Posture 4) being quizzed on the Airman’s Manual, waiting to hear an ‘all clear’ over the radio.”

Most of the team was, at the very least, in MOPP 2 while on the RAT, said Sergeant Abdella. It was hot while they were in Virginia, especially when in MOPP 2 all day long, according to Sergeant Abdella and Captain Voytilla.

The RAT targeted some specific UTCs which include logistics readiness officer, air terminal superintendent, large as well as small air terminal package, portable weight scale, and land mobile radios.

Preliminary results from the RAT show a satisfactory rating for their equipment brought to the RAT and their ability to survive and operate, said Captain Voytilla. The 86th APS will not receive the final results from the RAT until the 446th Airlift Wing receives its final grade from the operational readiness inspection Oct. 25 to Nov. 1, he said.

However, their team did receive a couple of minor hits against them, which can serve as a nice “things to watch out for,” heads up as the rest of the wing prepares for the ORI.

Items which need to be worked on are the operation of vehicles and machinery while MOPP 4 gear is donned, said the captain.

“They are very proficient at their jobs, but the MOPP gear really makes it a bit more challenging when operating vehicles and machinery,” said Captain Voytilla. “We will start training in MOPP 4 in order to be a lot better at our jobs when working in such restrictive gear.”

The aerial porters used to do a



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Hall

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Mills, 86th Aerial Port, here, prepares to load cargo onto an aircraft with a 60K TUNNER New Generation Service Loader while on the readiness assessment team in Norfolk, Va., Aug. 22 to Sept. 4.

training course once a year with the use of MOPP 4 while performing their duties. The course was dropped about three years ago, according to the captain.

Radios were the only form of communication being used to sound alarms, give orders to hydrate and pass information about the current

weather conditions during the RAT, said the captain.

“Overall, we learned a good amount from the RAT,” said Captain Voytilla.

The RAT provided the team with knowledge and honed their skills at a team level as well as an individual one, said the captain.



AROUND THE WORLD

Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Breckon



KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – Senior Airman Benjamin Jenkins, 446th Civil Engineer Squadron, develops a forward operating base during a recent deployment.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tony Tolley



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Tech. Sgt. Richard Stage, 62nd Operations Support Squadron, checks the wet bulb globe temperature reading on a heat stress monitor during a recent deployment.



22nd Special Tactics Squadron Airmen honored

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The 22nd Special Tactics Squadron recently hosted an awards ceremony honoring 40 Airmen with an array of combat awards earned during deployments over the last two years, ranging from the Purple Heart to the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Family members and friends of the honored Airmen, as well as Col. William Sherman, Air Force Special Operations Command chief of operations, packed the squadron's auditorium Sept. 3 for the ceremony.

"The day was about recognizing the teamwork of our outstanding combat support and operators who work side-by-side delivering devastation to the enemy and winning hearts and minds while forward deployed," said Lt. Col. Bryan Canaday, 22nd STS commander. "As the mighty 22nd STS prepares to deploy once again, it is fitting to celebrate our accomplishments from last year."

The Purple Heart was awarded to Master Sgt. Anthony Bryant and Staff Sgts. Evan Jones and Shaun Meadows.

- Sergeant Bryant was injured in a high speed vehicle accident while tactically egressing a site under enemy fire.
- Sergeant Meadows was injured when his vehicle stuck an improvised explosive device while on a



Colonel William Sherman, Chief of Operations Division, Air Force Special Operations Command, awards the Bronze Star Medal to Master Sgt. Jason Dryer, 22nd Special Tactics Squadron, during a ceremony here Sept. 3. Twenty-nine members of the 22nd STS were awarded 37 medals, including five Bronze Star's, three Purple Heart's, and nine Combat Action Medals as recognition for their performance while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

combat reconnaissance patrol.

- Sergeant Jones suffered multiple injuries during a coordinated enemy ambush. Although injured, he continued to fight and controlled

all close air support and medical evacuation.

The Bronze Star Medal recipients included Master Sgt. Jason Dryer, Master Sgt. Brad Greisen,

Staff Sgt. Scott Flannery, Staff Sgt. John Schmidt and Senior Airman Matthew Pich. All served as combat

————— See HONORED, Page 12



Critical Days end, fall safety focus begins

By

Tech. Sgt. Jake Chappelle
446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Even though the Critical Days of Summer Campaign is officially at an end, there is a serious issue to address before going into the Fall Safety Campaign. There were more fatalities this summer than in the prior two years.

“There were 22 Air Force-wide fatalities due to lack of proper safety measures, said Lt. Col. Kevin Welin, 446th Airlift Wing Chief of Safety here. “We understand some accidents are inevitable, however, many can be avoidable. People are forgetting about Operational Risk Management.”

According to Master Sgt. Dean Jones, 446th AW Ground Safety assistant manager, the majority of motor-vehicle accidents occur during the holiday season.

“Most of the deaths occurred during the weeks of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day,” said Sergeant Jones. “People think that because the days are longer, they can squeeze more things in, like errands they couldn’t get done during the work week. They end up getting tired and worn out.”

They want to hurry up and make it to the party and end up driving too fast, swerving to avoid another driver, and end up hitting a tree, said

Sergeant Jones.

Alcohol also tends to be a factor impacting holiday fatalities, said Colonel Welin. People decide to hydrate with the wrong fluids at high temperatures, so not only are they severely dehydrated, they figure because the day is longer, they can get behind the wheel of a vehicle. That’s a bad combination.

With the daylight hours getting shorter and school being back in session, it gives people a whole new focus, according to Colonel Welin.

“We have to consider now that there are more kids out and less daylight,” said Colonel Welin. “That factored with the combination of more rain and leaves on the ground, it might as well be ice.”

In October, black ice will be a problem in the mornings, said Sergeant Jones. It can be a rude awakening if you’re not from the area.

Another thing to consider, according to Sergeant Jones is the fact that more rainfall causes the oil from the roads to surface, allowing for the potential of hydroplaning.

Mountain pass conditions, for commuters and people going to and from Seattle Seahawks’, Washington State University Cougars’, and University of Washington Huskies’ games, are going to be a lot more hazardous later in the year, said Sergeant Jones. Commuters are going to have to allow themselves more travel time and check the Washington State Department of

Transportation Web site for weather and road conditions.

One of the biggest items people seem to miss is fuel line freeze-up, according to Colonel Welin.

“If you don’t remember the last time you added fuel injector cleaner to your fuel tank, you might want to consider doing it soon,” said Colonel Welin. “You don’t want to get stuck on the pass because your fuel line froze.”

According to Colonel Welin, having an emergency kit is a great way to prepare for a hazardous situation.

“You should, at minimum, have a blanket, water, meal ready to eat, band aids, hazard flares, global positioning system, a collapsible shovel, and pain reliever,” said Colonel Welin.

Replacing windshield wipers and checking tire pressure and tread depth are other critical items that shouldn’t be overloaded, said Colonel Welin.

“Make sure you have your windshield wipers replaced if you’ve had them over a year,” said Colonel Welin. “Low tire pressure and shallow depth can be a problem if you decide to drive on I-5 in the morning.

With the Fall Safety Campaign already in swing, Airmen are advised to be cautious, resourceful, and be good Wingmen.

More information on the Fall Safety Campaign will be covered by the 446th AW Safety Office at the November unit training assembly commander’s call.

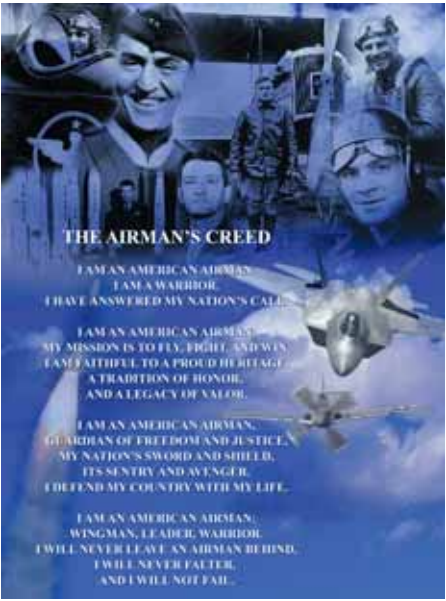
When working with classified information, keep security in mind at all times. Use approved OPSEC, EMSEC, COMPUSEC and Info Protect facilities and equipment only.



After a long, exceptional run, we say goodbye to *The Northwest Airlifter* today. It has been our pleasure to bring you, your base newspaper each week and as we transition to the electronic age of news, know that our commitment to telling your story will not change.

Please continue to let us know about all the great things you are doing for the 62nd Airlift Wing and the Air Force ... we'll see you on the Web!

— Your 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Team:
Master Sgt. Dean Miller, Carrie Bernard, 1st Lt. Joseph Wingard, Master Sgt. Chris Haylett, Bud McKay,
Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson, Staff Sgt. Eric Burks, Senior Airman Kirsten Wicker, Tyler Hemstreet,
Randy White, Abner Guzman, Adamarie Lewis-Page



PNAF Airmen ... Perfect ... Always!

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

As a security forces Airman stationed at a previous duty location, Tech. Sgt. Matt Thompson would routinely patrol the base, keeping a close watch on the missiles and nuclear cargo that would come in and out of the installation.

While securing the activity on the flightline surrounding the nuclear mission, Sergeant Thompson longed to have a more active role in safeguarding the precious cargo.

“I was envious,” he said of the Air Mobility Command C-17 Globemaster III loadmasters’ role in the mission.

Sergeant Thompson decided to retrain into the loadmaster career field, eventually becoming part of McChord’s 4th Airlift Squadron and playing a key role on the nation’s Prime Nuclear Airlift Force.

The desire to be part of such an honored, specialized and recognized program as the PNAF mission runs deep throughout the halls of the 4th AS.

After completing pilot training, Maj. Kevan Barry, an aircraft commander, specifically requested assignment to the 4th AS to be a part of the PNAF mission.

“Beyond being able to fly for a living, this was really the icing on the cake,” he said. “We have a great aircraft and a great mission.”

Earlier in his career, Master Sgt.

Toby McKnight had flown on C-17s and had met PNAF loadmasters. He later caught the flying bug and decided to retrain.

“I was honored when I heard I was going to become part of the (PNAF) mission because you know you’re working with the very best,” Sergeant McKnight said.

McChord’s PNAF program has a solid history of perfection. Airmen evaluated during the Nuclear Surety Inspection here Aug. 17 to 24 received an overall grade of “Satisfactory” — the highest possible grade — by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General team. The grade followed the wing’s same top score after a scheduled Defense NSI in January.

The reputation of the program is something Airmen are very familiar with.

“We’re always under the microscope and the program is always being inspected by higher headquarters,” Major Barry said. “We hold each other to that high standard ... it’s a good stress.”

And while the pressure to perform is always in the back of every Airman’s mind, those chosen to perform the PNAF mission have a specific personality type that enables them to do their job at the highest level.

“We’re all detail-oriented people,” said Master Sgt. Shawn Joy, a veteran loadmaster. “We have the perfectionist-type of personality.”

And that means embracing a culture of carefully following every checklist, every time and studying every mission from beginning to end



Photo by Abner Guzman

4th Airlift Squadron loadmasters load a training device onto a C-17 to perfect mission readiness.

— looking at a wide array of scenarios that could develop during the flight, everything from a change in weather conditions to a maintenance issue with the aircraft.

Through it all, the same goal remains at the forefront of every Airman’s thoughts: PNAF... Perfect... Always!

“It’s about safety, security and reliability,” Major Barry said. “Those three things ensure that we, as aircrew, guarantee nuclear surety and

safeguard national assets.”

And while the national significance of every PNAF mission and constant scrutiny from very rigorous inspections is always a factor, Airmen say the benefits of accomplishing this mission outweigh all other factors.

“The sense of satisfaction is so great because you realize the Air Force and the nation trusts you to do this extremely important mission,” Sergeant McKnight said. “Every mission is critical.”



From HONORED, Page 7

controllers working shoulder-to-shoulder with Army Special Forces units.

• During a patrol, Sergeant Dryer and his team were engaged by Taliban forces. Sergeant Dryer directed a flight of F-15 Strike Eagles and Apache helicopters, destroying the enemy and their base of operation in a 10-hour battle. Upon returning to their base, Sergeant Dryer also helped fend off an attack, exposing himself to enemy fire in order to launch a rocket at the enemy forces.

• Sergeant Greisen, working with his Special Forces and Iraqi counter-terrorism team, was directly responsible for the capture of 30 high-value insurgent leaders and others responsible for attacks on coalition forces and Iraqi civilians. His planning and coordination efforts were also vital to recovery of multiple improvised explosive device components and numerous weapons caches.

• After Sergeant Flannery and his Army Special Forces team came under direct attack, he dismounted his vehicle and directed precision air attacks that devastated numerous enemy fighting positions and combatants. Over a three-day period, Sergeant Flannery controlled 11 flights of aircraft that killed 28 enemy combatants.

• Sergeant Schmidt was solely responsible for linking more than 200 airborne platforms and intelligence during a religious holiday surge of more than two million visiting pilgrims in the culturally sensitive city of Karbala. He fused the air to ground picture and became the focal point for the city governor, 20,000 Iraqi Army and police personnel and the joint force commander, diffusing a potential strategic political time bomb.

• Senior Airman Mathew Pich worked with his Special Forces team, participating in 52 combat operations to neutralize anti-Afghanistan forces. After being ambushed on one mission, Airman

Pich directed air strikes which killed seven enemy fighters and neutralized the situation.

Master Sgts. Jodi Williams and Jason Dryer were also awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for their roles in Operation Enduring Freedom.

• Sergeant Dryer, 22nd STS NCOIC, directed 28 joint terminal attack controllers and an assault zone reconnaissance team operating from remote locations and was instrumental to the success of 700 air-to-ground missions while coordinating and tracking 153 time-critical air requests.

• Sergeant Williams distinguished herself through outstanding achievement as a communications advisor. She advised 53 Afghan National Army Air Corps communications personnel in both their primary duties and military procedures. She also created the first-ever communications training program for the corps and squadron personnel, boosting Afghan Air Corps competency by 75 percent.

22nd STS Airmen were recognized with the following honors for their actions while deployed:

Combat Action Medal

(In the spirit of cultivating warrior ethos in all Airmen, the Air Force created the Air Force Combat Action Medal in 2007. Airmen who have directly engaged enemy combatants are eligible for the award.)

- Tech. Sgt. David Owens
- Staff Sgt. Kyle Felix
- Staff Sgt. Scott Flannery
- Staff Sgt. Brandon Gross
- Staff Sgt. Evan Jones
- Staff Sgt. Simon Malson

- Staff Sgt. Christopher Martin
- Staff Sgt. Shaun Meadows
- Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Reiss

Air Force Commendation with Valor

- Staff Sgt. Gregory Arborgast
- Staff Sgt. Kyle Felix
- Staff Sgt. Douglas Frinnel
- Staff Sgt. Brandon Gross

Air Force Commendation Medal

- Capt. Joel Buelow
- Master Sgt. Anthony Bryant
- Tech. Sgt. Neil Lapham

- Tech. Sgt. Lindsay Ryan
- Tech. Sgt. James Vanherwaarden

- Staff Sgt. George McAlister
- Staff Sgt. Shaun Meadows
- Staff Sgt. Jason Schiffner
- Staff Sgt. David Yorton

Air Force Achievement Medal

- Capt. Stephanie Oldham
- Staff Sgt. Daniel Cook
- Staff Sgt. Aaron Jones
- Senior Airman Christopher Worden



Photo by Abner Guzman

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to a person in any branch of the military service who, while serving in any capacity with the armed forces of the United States on or after Dec. 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service not involving participation in aerial flight in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.



Generals look to future challenges, opportunities

By
Master Sgt. Paul Dean
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz joined 13 other generals during a panel discussion Sept. 16 at the 2009 Air Force Association Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition held at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md.

“This is the group of leaders that strives every day to be worthy of the brilliance and excellence of our Airmen,” General Schwartz said in kicking off the forum.

Each general offered an opening remark addressing their two main challenges on the five-to-ten year horizon, answered questions from audience members, and closed the forum by addressing the theoretical question, “If you had one more dollar to spend, what would you do with it?”

Many of the generals focused on recapitalization and Airmen development in the midst of a “resource

constrained environment.”

“[Special Operations Command] has what it needs to do what we’re doing now,” said Lt. Gen. Donald C. Wurster, Air Force Special Operations Command commander. But the AFSOC commander also reminded the audience that many of the airframes his command flies entered service in the 1960s. He stressed that special operations missions rely heavily on the reliability of equipment, and that his major command would benefit from more CV-22 Ospreys or some other vertical lift platform.

Generals Donald J. Hoffman, Air Force Materiel Command commander; Arthur J. Lichte, Air Mobility Command commander; and Duncan J. McNabb, U.S. Transportation Command commander, all indicated their commitment to move forward with a new tanker program.

“I think you can all guess where my next--and any dollar--would go,” said General Lichte. “Tankers, tankers, tankers!”

Without a new tanker airframe,

the service’s KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-10 Extenders are shouldering the load.

“With our tankers operating in a new steady state that was once a surge, the combatant commanders can be confident that we will always get them the forces and supplies they need to win,” said General McNabb. “We will always get through.”

The training and equipping of Airmen was also in sharp focus for many of the panel members.

Gen. William M. Fraser III, Air Combat Command commander, said it is clear to him after just a short time in the job that one of his main priorities will be to take a hard look at unmanned aerial system personnel issues, including how to ensure Airmen have appropriate opportunities for career progression.

The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve face unique, yet complimentary challenges to those of the active force.

Lt. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., chief of Air Force Reserve specifically

indicated he would spend any new money for the Air Force Reserve’s seasoning training program, which speeds upgrade from 3 to 5-level for enlisted reservists as they perform temporary, active-duty tours.

General Stenner is committed to providing “tier-one readiness” as a partner with the active-duty component, which drives his commitment to seasoning training. “I used to have 85 percent prior service Airmen,” said the general. “Now it’s 65 percent.”

The diversity of perspectives, needs and issues they raised spotlighted the complexity of the Air Force.

In concluding, the chief of staff of the Air Force indicated his sense that the Air Force mandate for moving ahead is clear.

“As we go forward, it is absolutely important that...we live in the present, but also put an eye on where we want to be, and who we want to be,” said General Schwartz. “And we are going to make those two charges resonate for our Airmen.”



ASBBC blood drive

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center hosts a blood drive 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Chapel Support Center. Everyone eligible to donate is encouraged to do so on a walk-in basis. The blood collected at the blood drive will arrive in Iraq or Afghanistan approximately two weeks from the time it is donated.

The process of donating blood takes approximately 45 minutes and includes registration, interview and physical screening and the actual collection of a pint of blood.

Some people may not be eligible to donate if a year has not passed from returning from a deployment to Afghanistan, Iraq and eastern Turkey, which carry certain restrictions from donating. However, many of the other countries in the Middle East that the military travels to are acceptable. Kuwait and Qatar have no restrictions.

Additionally, it is recommended donors weigh at least 110 pounds, are at least 17 years old, have been feeling well for the last three days and have eaten before donating. For more information on event and to find out one's eligibility, visit the ASBBC Web site at <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/default.aspx>.

Deployed Families Dinner

The next Deployed Families Dinner is 6 p.m. Monday at the Chapel Support Center. To reserve a seat or for more information, call 982-5556.

Plastic bags drive for CDC

The 8th Airlift Squadron is sponsoring a plastic bag drive to help offset costs for the Child Development Center, which needs bags to put soiled clothes and dirty diapers into.

A collection recycle container is set up directly outside of the main entrance to the Commissary. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Gabriel Reams at 982-7357.

Traffic notice

Due to increased heavy inbound traffic at McChord's main gate off Bridgeport Rd., the 62nd Security Forces Squadron is requesting base personnel utilize the Barnes gate (near Burger King) when feasible, especially during high peak hours (7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Directions to the Barnes gate are as follows – from Interstate 5: take exit 123. Make a right off exit ramp, and follow for one mile. Make a left turn onto 150th St. Follow for approximately three miles. Make a left at the stop sign at 150th and Perimeter Rd. Follow Perimeter Rd. for one mile then make a left turn at the light onto Barnes Ave.

From Spanaway Loop, turn onto Perimeter Rd. Follow Perimeter Rd for approximately 1.5 miles to intersection of Perimeter and Barnes Ave.

For more information, call 982-5100.

Base housing available

Family housing is available on base for both immediate and future move-in dates. For more information, contact the McChord Family Housing office at 589-0523.

'Lost and found' items

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron is currently in possession of numerous items of personal property such as bicycles, keys, etc. These items were found on or near McChord

and may be reclaimed by contacting the Security Forces investigation section, located at Bldg. 160. For more information, call 982-5936.

Limited service at McChord Clinic

The McChord Clinic is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The clinic includes both the 62nd Medical Squadron, which serves active duty beneficiaries, and the McChord Medical Clinic, which serves family members and retirees. Please direct any questions or concerns to the 62nd MDS group practice manager at 982-2304.

HAWC update

The 62nd Airlift Wing Health and Wellness Center is temporarily without a Dietitian and Health Educator. This affects some services the HAWC provides, specifically Smoking Cessation

and Nutritional Counseling. The 62nd Medical Squadron has implemented measures to continue Air Force mandated classes such as Fitness Improvement. Clients seeking Nutritional Counseling or Tobacco Cessation services should call the Tricare appointment line at 1-800-404-4506 or 982-CARE and request services at Madigan Army Medical Center or with their Primary Care Manager for Chantix refills.

McChord Key Spouse voicemail

The Key Spouse program has voicemail (982-KEYS) for families wanting to contact or get more information about their unit's Key Spouses. The voicemail gives every squadron the ability to have a personalized mailbox where people can leave messages for Key Spouses.



McChord Chaplain Corps Faith & Worship Programs

For more information on Chapel services and programs, please call 982-5556.
To contact Duty Chaplain after duty hours, contact the Command Post at 982-2635.

CATHOLIC SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
All Catholic services are in chapel two.
Saturday:
4 p.m. Confession: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
5 p.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
11 a.m. Mass: Chapel 2, Bldg. 181
12:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
Monday:
Noon. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the month: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
6:30 p.m. Why Catholic? Small Group Study: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
PROTESTANT SERVICES and RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Sunday:
8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180
9:45 a.m. Sunday School: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746
11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel 1, Bldg. 180
11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746

JEWISH SERVICES:
Friday:
6 p.m. Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday of the month: Ft. Lewis, Chapel 5, Bldg. T-2270
OTHER PROGRAMS:
The following Chapel programs take place at the Chapel Support Center, Bldg. 746.
Tuesday:
9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
6 p.m. Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Bible Study; 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesday of the month
Wednesday:
11 a.m. Adult Bible Study



Air Force Services Agency announces the winners of the 2009 Air Force Club Membership Scholarships.

For the 13th consecutive year, Air Force Club continues to help its members and their families with the cost of higher education.

Recently, 25 individuals were selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship through the Air Force Club Membership Scholarship Program. Scholarships are funded by Air Force Services, Chase Bank and the Coca-Cola Company (no Federal endorsement of sponsor intended).

Club members and their families were given the opportunity to submit a 500-word essay on the topic, “The High Cost of Freedom”. Essays were chosen by each participating base to compete for the 25 Air Force awards. The 2009 McChord winners are:

- **1st Lieutenant Elisa Van**

Cise, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

- **Master Sgt. Randall Robinett**, 62nd Force Support Squadron

A total of 154 entries were submitted to the Headquarters Air Force Service Agency for Air Force level consideration.



Arrive Alive!
Don't Drink and Drive!

AADD’s mission is to provide free, safe, confidential rides HOME to McChord Personnel who have been drinking within a 30 mile radius of McChord AFB and make the responsible decision to let someone else do the driving.

